

FROSS, JAMES
ARTHUR

80

1529

CONF009501

DYKES_I_007368

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET
REGISTRATION AND SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

DATE

4/18/80

FULL NAME

JAMES ARTHUR FROSS

(No initials if you can possibly get full name)

ADDRESS

2111 34 Broom St

CITY

Red Hook

STATE

NY

ZIP CODE

DATE OF BIRTH

FEB 7, 1934

(This is important and should be exact)

APPROXIMATE AGE

(To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

RELIGION

unknown

NATIONALITY

U.S.A.

OCCUPATION

FIRE DEPT / CUSTODIAN Gateway INDUSTRIES

EDUCATION

unknown

WEIGHT

180

COLOR

White

HEIGHT

6'

COLOR OF HAIR

LT BROWN

COLOR OF EYES

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OR INTERESTS

FIRE DEPT.

MARRIED OR SINGLE

MARRIED

CHILDREN

(Number, ages, and names, if possible)

WIFE'S NAME

MARY

SCOUTING CONNECTIONS:

UNIT #

CITY

STATE

OFFICE

DATE REGISTERED

DATE RESIGNED

T 16

TIVOLI

NY

SA/SM

1/77

3/79

T. 58

Red Hook

NY

SA

10/6/78

11/79

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

RECOMMENDED FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

- ☒ CONVICTION OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT ☐ SUBSTANTIATED REPORTS
☐ OFFICIAL CHARGES OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT (REVIEW) ☐ UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND INDIVIDUAL FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILE
AND LIST SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

APPROVED

JUN 17 1980

JOSEPH L. [Signature]

Signed

[Signature]

SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Council

Dutchess County # 374

CONF009502

DYKES_I_007369

The Daily Freeman

weather
Increasing clouds tonight with rain developing and continuing Friday, possibly heavy at times. Low tonight in upper 30s and 40s, high Friday in upper 40s to mid 50s.

VOL. 65, NO. 10

Thursday, April 2, 1980

Kingsport, New York

The Daily Freeman Sunday

Scoutmaster guilty in sodomy case

KINGSTON — The question of how much penalty should be levied against a former Red Hook scoutmaster who sodomized two Boy Scouts has caused an apparent rift between the district attorney's office and county court.

Acting Judge John J. Clyne told the guilty man, James E. Fross, he would sentence him to 60 days in Ulster County Jail and five years probation, provided he undergo intensive psychiatric therapy.

But District Attorney Michael Kavanagh said the crime concerned him deeply and he may recommend a state prison sentence since Fross has a prior sexual abuse conviction.

The sobbing 46-year-old defendant, who is also a former president of the Dutchess County Fire Chiefs Association, pleaded guilty Wednesday after the jury deliberated eight

hours and was reportedly split 3-4 in favor of a conviction.

Kavanagh said the agreement to allow Fross to plead was made strictly between Judge Clyne and defense

attorney Woody Close.

It was reportedly agreed to because Fross is a heart patient. Kavanagh said his office is not bound by the defense-court agreement.

Fross could receive a maximum sentence of up to seven years in prison on the felony charges.

In accepting the guilty plea, Judge Clyne asked, "You are guilty as charged, aren't you?"

"I am," acknowledged Fross,

whose wife, Mary, stood nearby.

Asked if the testimony of the two Boy Scout victims, age 13 and 14, was correct, he replied, "It was."

A member of the Red Hook Volunteer Fire Company and the Mid-Hudson Harlem Valley Fire Chiefs Association, Fross was indicted on two counts of sodomy last August.

On the witness stand the scouts told of being sodomized on several

(See Sodomy page 3)

• Sodomy

(Continued from page 1)

occasions between October 1973 and May 1979.

The acts took place on a secluded dirt road in the town of Ulster on the way home from scout meetings in Dutchess County.

Assistant District Attorney Donald Williams said Fross pled the boys with soda and chips.

Prior to pleading guilty, Fross took the witness stand in his own defense, maintaining his innocence.

Defense attorney Close produced two other scouts who also rode home from meetings with Fross and they testified nothing "out of the ordinary" took place.

But Williams claimed the other boys were dropped off before the sexual acts with the victims took place.

Williams maintained the victims had nothing to gain by lying, despite Close's claims that they may have been coached by the prosecution.

And the prosecution asked why the pair would subject themselves to embarrassment and ridicule if there was no reason to do so?

Williams called the matter a tragic episode, mentioning the trust the community had placed in Fross as a scoutmaster.

CONF009503